INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

IV 2355016

SUBJECT: **ANTHONY PAEZ, [redacted]**
DEPUTY SHERIFF GENERALIST

DATES OF INCIDENTS: **AUGUST 24, 2011, AND SEPTEMBER 7, 2011**

ALLEGATIONS

It is alleged Operation Safe Streets Bureau (OSS,) Gang Enforcement Team (GET) Subject Deputy Anthony Paez and former Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Deputy [redacted] stole $500 dollars from a private residence during a search on September 7, 2011. It is further alleged Subject Paez and [redacted] planted evidence at a marijuana dispensary on August 24, 2011, then conspired to falsify the police report.

> **IAB Note:** For the purposes of this investigative summary, former Deputy [redacted] will be referred to as [redacted]. On February 28, 2013, [redacted] was separated from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as a result of an unrelated administrative investigation.

SYNOPSIS

On September 7, 2011, [redacted] (Witness [redacted]), was laying on a sofa, with her infant, at her [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) residence located at [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] in the city of South Gate. When Witness [redacted] heard loud knocking coming from the front door, she opened the door and saw two deputies (later identified as Subject Paez and [redacted]). Witness [redacted] saw her [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) being detained in the backseat of a police vehicle. [redacted] asked Witness [redacted] if her [redacted] lived at the location and requested to search her residence to see if anyone had run inside. Witness [redacted] told [redacted] and Subject Paez the residence belonged to her [redacted] however, she agreed to allow them to search if she could watch them.

Subject Paez entered the [redacted] and walked directly toward the only bedroom. Witness [redacted] attempted to follow Subject Paez; however, [redacted] stopped her at the front door and prevented her from following Subject Paez. Subject Paez closed the bedroom door and Witness [redacted] was unable to see what Subject Paez was doing inside the bedroom. Witness [redacted] estimated Subject Paez was inside the bedroom approximately 20 minutes and she could hear the sound of the drawers from a wooden dresser opening and closing.

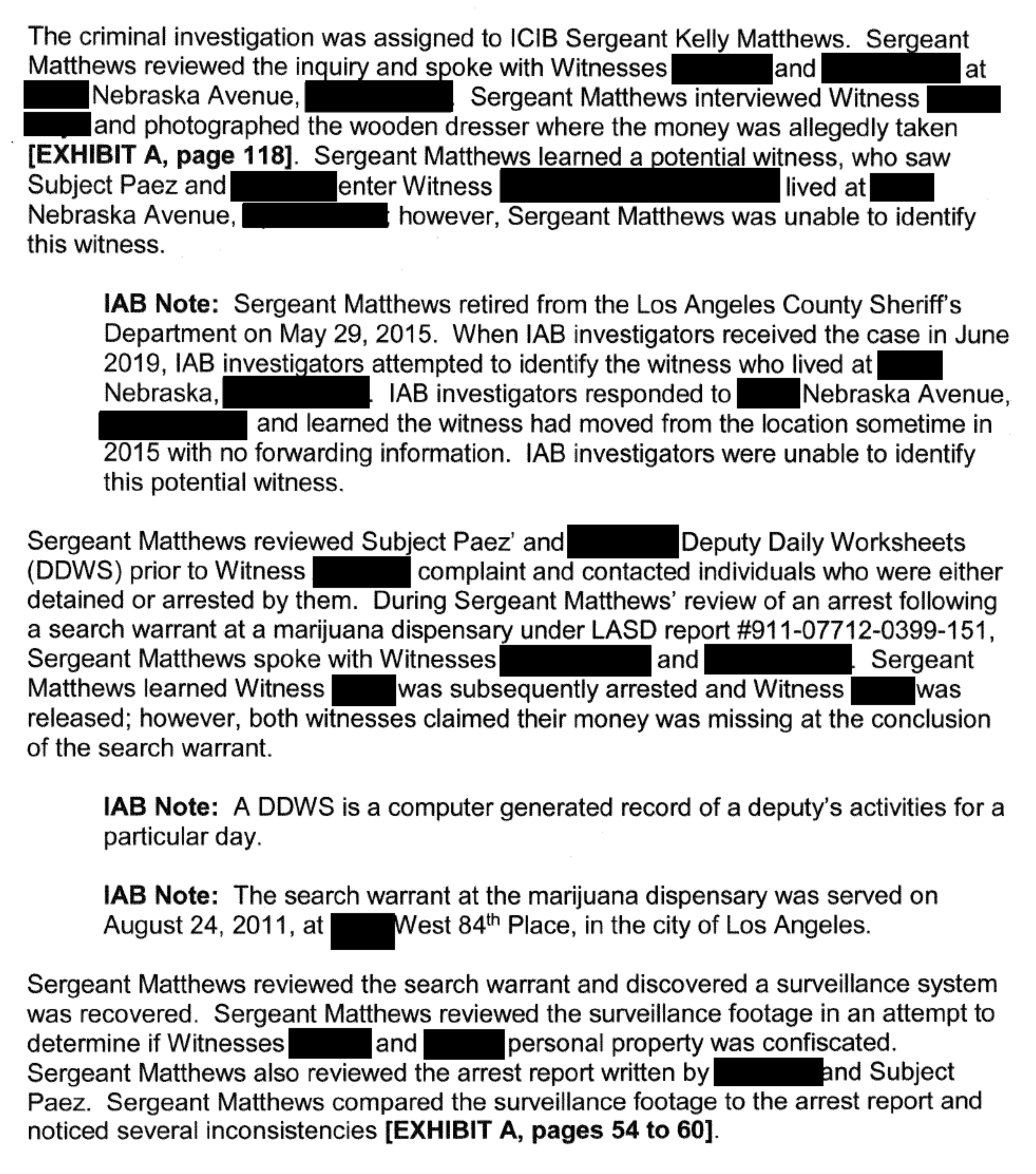
Once Subject Paez finished searching the bedroom, he told Witness [redacted] they needed to search [redacted] Nebraska Street, [redacted]. Witness [redacted] objected to the search; however, [redacted] entered [redacted] and conducted a search while Subject Paez prevented Witness [redacted] from entering [redacted] to stop [redacted]. While [redacted] searched [redacted], Witness [redacted] called her [redacted] later identified as [redacted], and informed her the police were searching her [redacted]. Witness [redacted] told [redacted] to go to a police station to make a complaint. Witness [redacted] believed Subject Paez and [redacted] overheard her telephone conversation with [redacted] and exited the [redacted]. Subject Paez and [redacted] released her [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) from the patrol vehicle and left the location.

> **IAB Note:** On September 17, 2019, and October 8, 2019, IAB investigators responded to [redacted] residence and left business cards at her [redacted]. On October 24, 2019, IAB investigators sent a letter to her and requested an interview **[Miscellaneous Documents]**. On October 26, 2019, IAB investigators received a telephone message from a female who identified herself as [redacted]. [redacted] declined to participate in an interview and requested IAB investigators to cease all contact with her and her family.

After Subject Paez and [redacted] left the location, Witness [redacted] arrived home and discovered $500 dollars missing from the wooden dresser in her bedroom. Witness [redacted] asked Witness [redacted] about the money. Witness [redacted] believed the money came up missing after Subject Paez searched the bedroom. Witness [redacted] called Compton Station and filed a complaint. Compton Station personnel related the message to OSS. Witnesses Lieutenant Ruthie Daily and Sergeant Jeffrey Moore responded to [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] and spoke with Witness [redacted]. Witness Moore documented the complaint under Watch Commander's Service Comment Report (WCSCR) #223940.

> **IAB Note:** Witness Daily was promoted to the rank of captain in 2018.

The complaint inquiry was assigned to OSS Lieutenant Henry Saucedo (Witness Saucedo). Witness Saucedo spoke with Subject Paez and [redacted]. Subject Paez and [redacted] admitted they went inside the residence, located at [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted], with Witness [redacted] consent. Subject Paez and [redacted] were inside the [redacted] approximately two to three minutes, conducted a protective sweep, and did not take anything. Witness Saucedo responded to [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted], and spoke with Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted]. Witness Saucedo learned from Witness [redacted] that a similar incident had occurred, where money was allegedly missing, after [redacted] arrested one of Witness [redacted] neighbors. That incident was never reported. Witness Saucedo documented his inquiry on a memorandum and submitted it to OSS Captain Robert Rifkin (Witness Rifkin) **[EXHIBIT A, pages 86 to 91]**. Acting Captain Steven Sciaca reviewed the inquiry and requested the incident be investigated by the Internal Criminal Investigation Bureau (ICIB) **[EXHIBIT A, page 315]**.



INVESTIGATION

The criminal investigation was assigned to ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews. Sergeant Matthews reviewed the inquiry and spoke with Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted] at [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] Sergeant Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted] and photographed the wooden dresser where the money was allegedly taken **[EXHIBIT A, page 118]**. Sergeant Matthews learned a potential witness, who saw Subject Paez and [redacted] enter Witness [redacted] lived at [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] however, Sergeant Matthews was unable to identify this witness.

> **IAB Note:** Sergeant Matthews retired from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on May 29, 2015. When IAB investigators received the case in June 2019, IAB investigators attempted to identify the witness who lived at [redacted] Nebraska, [redacted]. IAB investigators responded to [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] and learned the witness had moved from the location sometime in 2015 with no forwarding information. IAB investigators were unable to identify this potential witness.

Sergeant Matthews reviewed Subject Paez' and [redacted] Deputy Daily Worksheets (DDWS) prior to Witness [redacted] complaint and contacted individuals who were either detained or arrested by them. During Sergeant Matthews' review of an arrest following a search warrant at a marijuana dispensary under LASD report #911-07712-0399-151, Sergeant Matthews spoke with Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted]. Sergeant Matthews learned Witness [redacted] was subsequently arrested and Witness [redacted] was released; however, both witnesses claimed their money was missing at the conclusion of the search warrant.

> **IAB Note:** A DDWS is a computer generated record of a deputy's activities for a particular day.

> **IAB Note:** The search warrant at the marijuana dispensary was served on August 24, 2011, at [redacted] West 84th Place, in the city of Los Angeles.

Sergeant Matthews reviewed the search warrant and discovered a surveillance system was recovered. Sergeant Matthews reviewed the surveillance footage in an attempt to determine if Witnesses [redacted] and [redacted] personal property was confiscated. Sergeant Matthews also reviewed the arrest report written by [redacted] and Subject Paez. Sergeant Matthews compared the surveillance footage to the arrest report and noticed several inconsistencies **[EXHIBIT A, pages 54 to 60]**.

The following inconsistencies were noted by ICIB Sergeant Matthews:

- The Incident Report, the Probable Cause Declarations, and the Los Angeles County Jail Booking and Property Record indicated the incident took place at

2100 hours; however, the surveillance footage showed the incident took place at 1719 hours.

- The Incident Report indicated Subject Paez and [redacted] saw Witness [redacted] exiting the marijuana dispensary and make a narcotic transaction with a male adult who was standing on the sidewalk. The surveillance footage showed Witness [redacted] exited the dispensary with another male black, later identified as Witness [redacted]. Witness [redacted] immediately turned around and went back inside.

- The Incident Report indicated Witness [redacted] reached into his front shorts pocket and began to retrieve what appeared to be the butt of a handgun. The surveillance footage showed Witness [redacted] never reached into his pockets and he was wearing an oversized beige T-shirt, which draped over the waist area and extended downward toward the middle of his thighs. The T-shirt never rose above waist level and Witness [redacted] waist area was never exposed for direct visual observations of his front shorts pocket area.

- The Incident Report indicated Subject Paez and [redacted] were traveling westbound on 84th Place when Witness [redacted] saw them and ran inside the marijuana dispensary. The surveillance footage showed Subject Paez and [redacted] were traveling southbound on the frontage road of Vermont Avenue when Witness [redacted] exited the marijuana dispensary. Witness [redacted] then turned around and went back inside before Subject Paez and [redacted] arrived at the location. The surveillance footage showed Witness [redacted] walked back inside the marijuana dispensary in contrast to the Incident Report which indicated Witness [redacted] recognized the deputies' presence and became startled before he ran back inside the marijuana dispensary.

- The Incident Report indicated [redacted] ran to the east side of the building and looked through an open barred window. [redacted] saw Witness [redacted] bend down and conceal an item by a white plastic trash can. The surveillance footage showed [redacted] walk to the east side of the building and look through a window; however, Witness [redacted] did not go near any trash can or bend down to conceal any item.

- The Incident Report indicated Subject Paez and [redacted] recovered the handgun that [redacted] saw Witness [redacted] conceal by the trash can. The surveillance video did not show Witness [redacted] go near the trash can.

- The Incident Report indicated Subject Paez and [redacted] conducted a protective sweep of the location after assisting units arrived. The surveillance footage showed Subject Paez and [redacted] entered the marijuana dispensary approximately 20 minutes prior to the arrival of the first assisting unit.

- The Incident Report indicated [redacted] recovered a handgun, money, and ecstasy pills on top of the desk inside the northwest cash room and a handgun on top of a desk inside a small office room. The surveillance footage showed Subject Paez placed two handguns on the counter of the desk, next to a telephone, in the office located on the northwest corner of the building.

- The Incident Report indicated a warrant was obtained by Witness Lassiter; however, surveillance footage showed Subject Paez had crawled under the desk and moved objects more than four hours prior to the issuance of the search warrant.

IAB investigators reviewed the surveillance footage and noted the following:

Time	Camera	Descriptions
17:18:44	5	Patrol vehicle southbound on Vermont Frontage Road.
17:18:45	3	Witness [redacted] exited the marijuana dispensary with Witness [redacted]. Witness [redacted] immediately turned around before the door closed and walked back inside while Witness [redacted] remained outside.
17:19:50	5	Patrol vehicle turned onto WB 84th Place.
17:19:56	3	Patrol vehicle stopped at the front, slightly east of the entrance on the north side of the street facing westbound, [redacted] exited passenger side.
17:20:16	3	[redacted] walked toward the front entrance as Subject Paez exited the driver's side and immediately walked to the west side of the building.
17:20:29	8	[redacted] walked from the front entrance to the east side of the building and peeked in a window.
17:20:49	3	[redacted] left the east side of the building and returned to the front entrance.
17:21:17	3	The front door opened, [redacted] entered the marijuana dispensary and stood by the front door while patrons exited.
17:21:52	3&2	Subject Paez entered through the front door.
17:22:33	2	Subject Paez handcuffed Witness [redacted].

17:23:18	3	Subject Paez walked toward the patrol vehicle.
17:23:42	3	Subject Paez opened the trunk of the patrol vehicle and appeared to be searching for something for approximately one minute and thirteen seconds.
17:24:55	3	Subject Paez walked back into the dispensary.
17:36:11	3&2	Subject Paez escorted Witnesses [redacted], [redacted], and [redacted] to the patrol vehicle.
17:39:47	3	Subject Paez left the patrol vehicle and re-entered the marijuana dispensary.
17:39:19	7	Subject Paez went behind the counter in the display room and appeared to be searching for something.
17:39:27	3	First backup unit arrived (Witness Deputies Aaron Jacob and [redacted] and remained outside.
17:40:45	7	Subject Paez walked out of the display room.
1745	7	Subject Paez appeared in the display room and moved items.
17:49:58	12	Subject Paez and [redacted] went into the back office. Subject Paez placed two handguns on the counter, crawled under the desk, and the surveillance system stopped working.

Sergeant Matthews documented his investigation in a written report **[EXHIBIT A]** and submitted it to the Justice System Integrity Division (JSID).

On May 22, 2013, Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Jennifer Turkat from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office dropped the charges against Witness [redacted] due to the unavailability of the officers, see **[EXHIBIT A, page 81]**.

On April 16, 2014, JSID DDA Arisa Mattson authorized five felony counts against [redacted] and Subject Paez under court case #BA423669. The following charges were filed:

1) Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice - Against [redacted]nd Subject Paez
2) Peace Officer Altering Evidence - Against [redacted]nd Subject Paez
3) Perjury by Declaration - Against [redacted]
4) Perjury by Declaration - Against [redacted]
5) Filing a false report - Against [redacted]

On April 18, 2019, [redacted] was convicted of count five – filing a false report. Criminal charges against Subject Paez were dismissed in furtherance of justice **[EXHIBIT B]**.

On September 2, 2019, IAB investigators spoke with [redacted] via telephone and requested an interview. [redacted] declined to participate in an interview. IAB investigators sent a witness letter to [redacted]. At the time of this investigation, Subject [redacted] has not contacted IAB investigators **[Miscellaneous Documents]**.

WITNESS STATEMENTS

The following interviews were recorded and transcribed. For more information and precise wording, see the attached verbatim interview transcriptions. The following narrative contains summaries of each interview:

Witness Captain Ruthie Daily

On April 3, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness Daily. On September 5, 2019, IAB Sergeant Luan Dang interviewed Witness Daily.

Witness Daily was assigned as a lieutenant at OSS from August 2011 to November 2014. Witness Daily recognized Subject Paez and [redacted] as deputies who were assigned to GET. On August 24, 2011, Witness Daily responded to a marijuana dispensary located in Los Angeles. Witness Daily spoke with Subject Paez and [redacted] and learned a suspect, later identified as Witness [redacted] ran into the marijuana dispensary with a gun. Witness Daily was concerned about Subject Paez' and [redacted] tactics because they chased after the suspect who was in possession of a firearm and had run into a building. In addition, Subject Paez and [redacted] had searched the location prior to obtaining approval from a sergeant.

At the location, Witness Daily saw several individuals being detained. Witness Daily learned she was summoned to the scene to assist with the recovery of money. Sometime after Witness Daily's arrival, Narcotics Bureau personnel arrived on scene and conducted a search warrant. Witness Daily assisted with the recovery of the money located inside the marijuana dispensary.

On September 7, 2011, Witness Daily received notifications from either Century or Compton Station that a female, later identified as Witness [redacted], complained money was missing after the deputies conducted a search at Witness [redacted] residence. Witness Daily informed Witness Moore about the complaint. Witnesses Daily and Moore responded to [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted], and spoke with Witness [redacted]. Witness [redacted] alleged Subject Paez and [redacted] searched her residence, and stole money out of a drawer. Witness Moore documented Witness [redacted] statement on WCSCR #223940. IAB investigators noted there were no records generated by Subject Paez and [redacted] for the search and inquired about GET's policy of logging the names of the detainees. Witness Daily explained it was a requirement for GET deputies to log their contacts and she had personally briefed GET deputies to log

their contacts on the computer. Witness Daily remembered Subject Paez and [redacted] were present during those briefings (*refer to **Witness Daily's IAB transcript, pages 9 & 10***). Witness Daily's ICIB interview was summarized by Sergeant Matthews, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 50 to 53]**.

Witness Lieutenant Henry Saucedo

On August 27, 2019, IAB Sergeant Luan Dang interviewed Witness Saucedo. Witness Saucedo was assigned to GET and OSS from 2010 to 2017. Witness Saucedo recognized Subject Paez and [redacted] as GET deputies who worked under his supervision. Witness Saucedo identified Subject Paez and [redacted] as individuals who needed to be closely monitored because "they were hiding and always doing their own things." Witness Saucedo directed the GET sergeants to "monitor their arrests, monitor any interactions" (refer to ***Witness Saucedo's IAB transcript, page 5***). Witness Saucedo spoke with Witness Rifkin and requested Subject Paez and [redacted] be separated as partners; however, his request was denied. Witness Saucedo and other OSS supervisors had conducted numerous briefings with GET deputies on various topics including but not limited to, logging public contacts, obtaining approval from a sergeant prior to residential searches, et cetera.

On October 19, 2011, Witness Saucedo was assigned WCSCR 223940. Witness Saucedo spoke with Witness [redacted] and learned money was missing from her [redacted] after Subject Paez and [redacted] conducted a search. Witness Saucedo spoke with Subject Paez and [redacted] about the allegation of missing money. Subject Paez and [redacted] acknowledged they went inside the residence; however, they denied taking the money. Witness Saucedo documented his inquiry on a memorandum and submitted it to Witness Rifkin, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 86 to 91]**.

Witness Lieutenant Carlos Parga

On March 18, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness Parga. On October 8, 2019, IAB Sergeant Dang interviewed Witness Parga.

> **IAB Note:** Witness Parga was promoted to the rank of lieutenant on May 19, 2013.

Witness Parga was assigned as a sergeant to the Narcotics Bureau in 2011. Witness Parga responded to a marijuana dispensary in the area of South Los Angeles to assist GET personnel with a warrant service. Witness Parga spoke with Witness Lucio (OSS Sergeant at the scene) and received a briefing from GET. Witness Parga walked inside the facility and discovered there was a large amount of marijuana and money. Witness Parga managed Narcotics Bureau personnel and assisted GET with obtaining a search warrant. The search warrant was subsequently written by Narcotics Bureau Detective David Lassiter (Witness Lassiter). Because the incident occurred more than eight years ago, Witness Parga was unable to provide additional information. Witness Parga's ICIB interview was summarized by Sergeant Matthews, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 45 to 47]**.

Witness Sergeant Gerardo Lucio

On January 8, 2012, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews conducted a telephonic interview with Witness Lucio.

Witness Lucio was assigned as one of the sergeants at OSS between 2011 and 2018. On August 24, 2011, Witness Lucio was contacted by either Subject Paez or [redacted] via telephone. Witness Lucio learned Subject Paez and [redacted] had detained people at a marijuana dispensary, recovered a firearm, noticed a large amount of money inside the dispensary, and wanted to conduct a search warrant at the location (*refer to **Witness Lucio's transcript, pages 1 & 2***).

When Witness Lucio arrived at the dispensary, he saw three to four individuals detained in the backseats of patrol vehicles and people hanging around in the immediate area who were not detained. Witness Lucio was briefed by Subject Paez and [redacted] about the event which lead to their entry of the dispensary (NFD, *refer to **Witness Lucio's transcript, page 3***). After Witness Lucio received the briefing from Subject Paez and [redacted], Subject Paez and [redacted] lead Witness Lucio inside the dispensary and "walked" him through the location (*refer to **Witness Lucio's transcript, page 4***). Subsequently, personnel from Narcotics Bureau responded to the location and obtained a search warrant.

Witness Lucio assisted with the search warrant operation and video recorded the location prior to the execution of the search warrant and after the search warrant was completed. Witness Lucio later provided the video to either Witnesses Parga or Lassister. ICIB Sergeant Matthews spoke with Witnesses Parga and Lassiter; however, the video was not located. Witness Parga told Sergeant Matthews he could not remember if a video was given to Witness Lassiter or Witness Lucio. Witnesses Lassiter and Lucio could not remember what happened to the video.

Witness Lucio was separated from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on September 29, 2018. On September 9, 2019, IAB investigators spoke with Witness Lucio via telephone and requested an interview. After conferring with his attorney, Witness Lucio declined to participate in an interview. On September 23, 2019, IAB investigators sent a letter to Witness Lucio, requesting an interview **[Miscellaneous Documents]**. At the time of this investigation, Witness Lucio has not contacted IAB investigators. Witness Lucio's ICIB interview was summarized by Sergeant Matthews, see **[EXHIBIT A, page 30]**.

Witness Sergeant Jeffrey Moore

On August 30, 2019, IAB Sergeants Luan Dang and [redacted] interviewed Witness Moore at the Arson and Explosives Detail office.

Witness Moore was assigned as a sergeant at OSS / GET from 2012 to 2016. Witness Moore was assigned as a team supervisor at GET and directly supervised Subject Paez

and [redacted]. On September 7, 2011, Witness Moore received information from Witness Daily that money was allegedly missing from a residence following a search conducted by Subject Paez and [redacted]. Witness Moore responded to the location ([redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] in the city of South Gate) with Witness Daily and spoke with a female (later identified as Witness [redacted]). Witness [redacted] alleged $500 dollars was missing after Subject Paez and [redacted] searched her [redacted] Witness Moore documented the incident on a WCSCR **[EXHIBIT A, page 85]**. Witness Moore later learned the WCSCR was assigned to Witness Saucedo.

When Witness Moore transferred to GET in 2011, he believed he was warned by other supervisors about Subject Paez and [redacted] not logging their contacts and conducting residential searches without prior approval from supervisors. Witness Moore and other supervisors at GET had repeatedly addressed these issues during numerous briefings and instructed GET personnel to log their contacts. Witness Moore explained the purpose of obtaining approval from supervisors prior to searches was to help to alleviate allegations such as missing money or damaged property. Witness Moore suggested that Subject Paez and [redacted] be separated from working as partners in the same patrol vehicle (*refer to* ***Witness Moore's transcript, page 19***).

Witness Detective David Lassiter

On February 4, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness Lassiter. On June 12, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Matthews conducted a telephonic interview with Witness Lassiter.

On August 24, 2011, Witness Lassiter was assigned as a detective to the Narcotics Bureau. Witness Lassiter responded to the marijuana dispensary and noticed several individuals detained in patrol vehicles. Witness Lassiter spoke with [redacted] and was briefed of the events leading to the "lockdown" of the location (*refer to* ***Witness Lassiter's first transcript, page 3***). Once Witness Lassiter obtained information from [redacted] Witness Lassiter went to South Los Angeles Station and wrote a search warrant to recover marijuana inside the dispensary. Once the search warrant was signed by a judge, Witness Lassiter returned to the marijuana dispensary, went inside, and took photographs of each room. Witness Lassiter directed Narcotics and GET personnel to gather evidence. Once evidence was collected, Witness Lassiter returned to South Los Angeles Station. Witness Lassiter's interview was summarized by Sergeant Matthews under **[EXHIBIT A, pages 40 to 42]**.

> **IAB Note:** Witness Lassiter retired from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on March 31, 2015. On September 9, 2019, IAB investigators sent a letter to Witness Lassiter and requested an interview **[Miscellaneous Documents]**. At the time of this investigation, Witness Lassiter has not contacted IAB investigators.

Witness Detective [redacted]

On March 18, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted]. On October 2, 2019, IAB Sergeant Luan Dang interviewed Witness [redacted]

IAB investigators inquired about the search warrant at [redacted] 84th Place in the city of Los Angeles in which Witness [redacted] was interviewed by ICIB Sergeant Matthews. Witness [redacted] immediately remembered the incident because marijuana dispensaries were a "hot topic" in 2011 (*refer to **Witness** [redacted] **IAB transcript, pages 4 & 5***). Witness [redacted] was at home when he received a telephone call from Witness Parga. Witness [redacted] learned GET deputies had made entry into a marijuana dispensary and needed Narcotics Bureau's assistance in the collection of evidence. When Witness [redacted] arrived at the location, he walked inside the dispensary and assisted GET and Narcotics personnel with the recovery of evidence. Witness [redacted] did not speak to either Subject Paez or [redacted] Witness [redacted] ICIB interview was summarized by Sergeant Matthews, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 45 to 47]**.

Witness Detective [redacted]

On March 18, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted]. On August 24, 2011, Witness [redacted] was assigned as a detective to the Narcotics Bureau. Witness [redacted] received a telephone call and responded to a marijuana dispensary in the city of Los Angeles to assist in the recovery of marijuana. When Witness [redacted] arrived at the location, approximately an hour to an hour and a half after the telephone call, Witness [redacted] noticed several individuals detained in patrol vehicles, and deputy personnel inside the marijuana dispensary. Witness [redacted] involvement was assisting Narcotics Bureau personnel recover evidence. Witness [redacted] did not provide any relevant information and his ICIB interview was summarized by Sergeant Matthews, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 42 and 43]**.

Witness Deputy Aaron Jacob

On September 16, 2019, IAB Sergeants Luan Dang interviewed Witness Jacob. Witness Jacob was assigned to GET from 2008 to 2012. Witness Jacob recognized Subject Paez and [redacted] and had worked with them; however, neither of them was ever his regular partner. Witness Jacob explained GET personnel had been briefed in regard to issues such as recording their detentions on either the Mobile Digital Computers (MDCs) or Mobile Digital Terminals (MDTs) and notifying a sergeant to obtain approval anytime they wanted to conduct residential searches.

Witness Jacob remembered he responded to a marijuana dispensary with Witness Deputy [redacted] in the city of Los Angeles. Because this incident occurred more than eight years ago, Witness Jacob could not remember the details. Witness Jacob believed he saw Subject Paez and [redacted] at the location. Witness Jacob slightly remembered he assisted by providing security and detained several civilians. IAB

investigators could not locate any document related to the incident written by Witness Jacob.

Witness Deputy [redacted]

On September 23, 2019, IAB Sergeants Luan Dang interviewed Witness [redacted]. Witness [redacted] was assigned to GET from September 2010 to April 2014. Witness [redacted] recognized Subject Paez and [redacted] and worked with them while he was assigned to GET; however, Witness [redacted] regularly assigned partner was Witness Jacob. Prior to going out to the field, GET personnel met at OSS headquarters in Rancho Dominguez and received their briefings. Some of the contents of the briefings included instructions for GET personnel to stay in their assigned patrol area, logging contacts, et cetera. Witness [redacted] vaguely remembered he responded with Witness Jacob to assist Subject Paez and [redacted] at a marijuana dispensary in South Los Angeles. When Witness [redacted] and Jacob arrived at the location, the situation was secured and they assisted by providing security (*refer to **Witness** [redacted] **transcript, page 10***). Witness [redacted] did not believe he searched the dispensary. IAB investigators could not locate any document related to the incident written by Witness [redacted].

Witness Robert Rifkin

On October 8, 2019, IAB Sergeant Luan Dang conducted a telephonic interview with Witness Rifkin. Witness Rifkin retired from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on December 27, 2014. In 2011, Witness Rifkin was assigned to OSS as the unit commander. Witness Rifkin recognized the names of Subject Paez and [redacted] Witness Rifkin confirmed that Witness Saucedo requested to separate Subject Paez and [redacted] as radio car partners. Witness Rifkin did not separate them and could not remember why he did not (*refer to **Witness Rifkin's transcript, page 4***). Witness Rifkin did not provide any other relevant information.

Witness [redacted]

On February 27, 2012, ICIB Sergeants Kelly Matthews and Eric Castano interviewed Witness [redacted]. On February 29, 2019, ICIB Sergeant Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted] via telephone. On September 10, 2019, IAB Sergeants Luan Dang and [redacted] interviewed Witness [redacted].

On September 7, 2011, Witness [redacted] was at her [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) [redacted] located at [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] in the city of South Gate. Witness [redacted] heard knocking on the door. Witness [redacted] described her [redacted] house was the "welcome house" where people would knock and enter the residence without obtaining permission to come in (*refer to **ICIB first transcript, page 1***). Witness [redacted] opened the door and immediately recognized [redacted] based on a prior incident where [redacted] arrested one of the residents who lived in the [redacted]

[redacted] inquired about Witness [redacted] brother (Witness [redacted]), who was detained in the backseat of a police vehicle. Witness [redacted] told [redacted] that Witness [redacted] used to live at [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] however, he had problems with his [redacted] so he had been staying at Witness [redacted] asked Witness [redacted] if anyone had run inside her [redacted] and inquired if he could come inside to check. Witness [redacted] saw a second deputy, later identified as Subject Paez, appear from behind [redacted] Witness [redacted] told [redacted] that they could search; however, she wanted to be inside while they look for the person.

Witness [redacted] picked up her [redacted] from the couch, exited the [redacted] and stood on the stairs at the front door. Subject Paez entered the [redacted] walked past the livingroom and the kitchen, entered the only bedroom in the [redacted] and closed the door. Witness [redacted] attempted to follow Subject Paez; however, [redacted] stopped her at the front door and told her she could not go inside. Witness [redacted] became upset and argued with [redacted] because she told him they could only search the [redacted] if she accompanied them. [redacted] tried to change the conversation; however, Witness [redacted] continued to tell [redacted] that it was not her residence and she wanted to be inside to see what Subject Paez was doing.

While arguing with [redacted] at the front door, Witness [redacted] heard the sound of the only wooden dresser's drawers in the bedroom opening and closing. After Subject Paez searched the bedroom for approximately 30 minutes, he exited the [redacted] and told [redacted] he did not find anything inside. Subject Paez told Witness [redacted] they needed to search [redacted] Nebraska Street, [redacted] (the former residence of Witness [redacted]). Witness [redacted] refused to allow Subject Paez and [redacted] to search [redacted] because that [redacted] belonged to her [redacted] told Witness [redacted] the door to [redacted] was already open so they could go inside. [redacted] then entered [redacted] while Subject Paez remained outside. Witness [redacted] protested against [redacted] entry and walked toward [redacted] Subject Paez pointed his firearm at Witness [redacted] and told her to stay back.

After [redacted] searched [redacted] told Witness [redacted] he found drugs and Witness [redacted] would be arrested. [redacted] showed a "chalk-like" item to Witness [redacted] and told her it was cocaine. Witness [redacted] did not know what the substance was and again demanded Subject Paez and [redacted] to leave the [redacted] Witness [redacted] called [redacted] and told her to go to a sheriff's station and speak with someone to remove Subject Paez and [redacted] from the [redacted] Witness [redacted] telephone conversation with [redacted] was overheard by Subject Paez. After Witness [redacted] spoke with [redacted] on the telephone, Subject Paez and [redacted] released her [redacted] from their vehicle and left the location.

Approximately 30 minutes after Subject Paez and [redacted] left the location, Witness [redacted] came home. Witness [redacted] entered her [redacted] ([redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted], in the city of South Gate) and discovered $500 dollars missing from the second drawer of her wooden dresser. Witness [redacted] asked Witness

[redacted] about the missing money. Witness [redacted] did not know Witness [redacted] had kept her rent money inside the bedroom. Witness [redacted] would not have allowed Subject Paez to enter Witness [redacted] if she knew the money was present. Witness [redacted] called the Sheriff's Department and initiated a complaint **[EXHITIBIT A, page 99]**. Witness [redacted] ICIB interviews were summarized by Sergeant Matthews, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 4 to 12]**.

Witness [redacted]

On October 9, 2012, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted]. Present during the interview was Deputy [redacted].

On September 7, 2011, Witness [redacted] was riding as a passenger in his friend's ([redacted], NFD) [redacted] Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV). They were traveling westbound on Nebraska Avenue, in the city of South Gate, when Witness [redacted] saw a patrol vehicle traveling toward them in the opposite direction. After they passed each other, Witness [redacted] saw the patrol vehicle make a U-turn at the four-way intersection at Nebraska Avenue and Stanford Avenue. Before the patrol vehicle completed the U-turn, Witness [redacted] and his friend turned into the parking lot located behind [redacted] and [redacted] Nebraska Avenue. Witness [redacted] heard what he described as the sound of the patrol vehicle accelerate and thought the patrol vehicle had left the area.

Witness [redacted] went inside [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] and got a glass of water. When Witness [redacted] and [redacted] came out of [redacted] Witness [redacted] saw two deputies, later identified as Subject Paez and [redacted] standing in the parking lot. Subject Paez and [redacted] detained Witness [redacted] and [redacted] in the patrol vehicle. From the patrol vehicle, Witness [redacted] saw Subject Paez enter [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] Witness [redacted] explained [redacted] belonged to his [redacted] Witness [redacted] and he stayed at that location from time to time. Witness [redacted] saw [redacted] stand at the front of [redacted] talking to his sister, Witness [redacted]

Witness [redacted] estimated Subject Paez was inside [redacted] approximately 10 minutes (*refer to **Witness** [redacted] **ICIB transcript, page 4***). After Subject Paez exited [redacted] one of the deputies entered [redacted] and searched for approximately 30 minutes. After Subject Paez and [redacted] searched both [redacted] they released Witness [redacted] and [redacted]. After Subject Paez and [redacted] left the location, Witness [redacted] learned $500 dollars was missing from Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] interview was summarized by Sergeant Matthews, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 14 to 17]**.

> **IAB Note:** The DDWS showed Subject Paez and [redacted] did not run a check on [redacted]

Witness [redacted]

On October 9, 2012, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted]. Present during the interview was Deputy [redacted]. Deputy [redacted] was fluent in Spanish and acted as a translator for Sergeant Matthews. Witness [redacted] resided at [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] On September 7, 2011, Witness [redacted] left her [redacted] at approximately 1300 hours to pick up her [redacted] later identified as [redacted] Witness [redacted] received a telephone call from Witness [redacted] her [redacted] who informed her the police were searching her [redacted] (*refer to* ***Witness*** [redacted] ***transcript, page 6***). Witness [redacted] returned to her [redacted] after the deputies had left the location. When she entered her bedroom, Witness [redacted] noticed the wooden drawers of her dresser were open. Witness [redacted] looked in one of the drawers and noticed $500 dollars missing. Witness [redacted] interview was summarized by Sergeant Matthews, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 12 to 14]**.

> **IAB Note:** On October 8, 2019, IAB Sergeants Luan Dang and Connie Delgado responded to [redacted] Nebraska Avenue, [redacted] and spoke with Witness [redacted] Sergeant Delgado spoke fluent Spanish and acted as a translator. IAB investigators requested an interview; however, Witness [redacted] refused to participate in an interview and requested IAB investigators to cease all contact with her.

Witness [redacted]

On April 1, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted] On August 24, 2011, Witness [redacted] was arrested for possession of more than an ounce of marijuana and possession of an unregistered loaded firearm. Witness [redacted] told ICIB investigators he did not like guns and was falsely accused. Witness [redacted] interview was summarized by ICIB investigators, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 49 & 50]**. On October 4, 2019, IAB investigators sent a witness letter to Witness [redacted] requesting in an interview. At the time of this investigation, Witness [redacted] has not contacted IAB investigators **[Miscellaneous Documents]**.

Witness [redacted]

On January 9, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted] On January 18, 2013, Sergeant Matthews conducted a telephonic interview with Witness [redacted] On an unknown date, Sergeant Matthews conducted another telephonic interview with Witness [redacted]. On May 2, 2013, Sergeant Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted] again.

On August 24, 2011, Witness [redacted] worked as the manager at "Superior Herbal Health" marijuana dispensary located at [redacted] West 84th Place in the city of Los Angeles. Witness [redacted] was sitting by his desk in the office when he heard the deputies (later identified as Subject Paez and [redacted] knocking at the front door. As soon as

Witness [redacted] opened the front door, Subject Paez and [redacted] entered the lobby area of the marijuana dispensary. Witness [redacted] was handcuffed by Subject Paez and was detained in the lobby area. Subject Paez removed Witness [redacted] wallet from his back pocket and placed it on the couch in the lobby area.

After Witness [redacted] was detained, Subject Paez and [redacted] knocked on the inner door leading to the rest of the dispensary, and told the occupants inside to open the door. Witness [redacted] was seated approximately five feet from the inner door and heard Witness [redacted] challenge Subject Paez' and [redacted] demands and ask them the reason for their demands to enter (*refer to* ***Witness*** [redacted] ***ICIB transcript, pages 47 and 48***). Approximately one to two minutes later, the inner door opened and Witnesses [redacted], [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] came out. Subjects Paez and [redacted] handcuffed Witnesses [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] together and escorted them to the patrol vehicle. Once Witness [redacted] was seated in the backseat of the patrol vehicle, he saw his property, including his wallet, was placed in a clear plastic bag by an unknown deputy. Later in the evening, Witness [redacted] learned he was arrested and asked the deputies (NFD) to release his property to one of the employees inside the marijuana dispensary. Witness [redacted] was transported with Witness [redacted] to South Los Angeles Station, where he was booked. When he was released from jail the following day, Witness [redacted] went back to the marijuana dispensary and retrieved his property. Witness [redacted] discovered his wallet was missing and none of the employees saw the wallet. Witness [redacted] did not submit a complaint for the missing wallet. Witness [redacted] was shown a picture of a silver colored firearm that was recovered by Subject Paez and [redacted]. Witness [redacted] did not recognize the silver colored firearm. Witness [redacted] knew there were four other firearms that were owned by the security guards at the dispensary secured in either a cabinet, a drawer, or a safe. Witness [redacted] interviews were summarized by Sergeant Matthews, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 30 to 35]**.

Witness [redacted]

On May 14, 2013, ICIB Sergeants Kelly Matthews and Eric Castano interviewed Witness [redacted]. Witness [redacted] worked as a security guard at "Superior Herbal Health" marijuana dispensary. On August 24, 2011, Witness [redacted] was at the location but did not remember if he worked that day. Witness [redacted] exited the marijuana dispensary with Witness [redacted]; however, Witness [redacted] immediately went back inside while Witness [redacted] remained outside. Witness [redacted] knew Witness [redacted] as a frequent customer and had never seen him carry a firearm. After Witness [redacted] went back into the marijuana dispensary, Witness [redacted] saw the deputies, later identified as Subject Paez and [redacted] pull up in a patrol vehicle and bang on the front door. Witness [redacted] did not enter the marijuana dispensary and did not know what occurred inside. Witness [redacted] knew there were four firearms registered to and owned by the security guards at the location. When the security guards leave the marijuana dispensary, they usually kept the firearms inside the location. The firearms were kept in either the safe or inside a drawer in the manager's office. Witness [redacted] was shown a picture of a silver colored firearm that was recovered by Subject Paez and

[redacted] however, he did not recognize it. Witness [redacted] interview was summarized by ICIB investigators, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 68 to 72]**.

Witness [redacted]

On January 11, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews conducted a telephonic interview with Witness [redacted].

Witness [redacted] was an employee at "Superior Herbal Health" marijuana dispensary. On August 24, 2011, Witness [redacted] was not on duty; however, he went to "Superior Herbal Health" to pick up his medication (NFD). ICIB Sergeant Matthews inquired about the silver color firearm recovered by Subject Paez and [redacted] Witness [redacted] was shown a picture of a silver colored firearm recovered by Subject Paez and [redacted]. Witness [redacted] knew the security guards carried firearms but did not recognize the silver colored firearm. Witness [redacted] interview was summarized by ICIB investigators, see **[EXHIBIT A, page 82]**.

Witness [redacted]

On May 17, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted] Witness [redacted] was an employee at "Superior Herbal Health" marijuana dispensary. On August 24, 2011, Witness [redacted] was working inside the marijuana dispensary. One of the customers, Witness [redacted] had purchased some marijuana, exited the marijuana dispensary, and then came back inside. Witness [redacted] went back into the marijuana dispensary; however, he never went behind the display counter. After Witness [redacted] went back inside the marijuana dispensary, the deputies, later identified as Subject Paez and [redacted] banged on the front door and demanded entry. Witness [redacted] called his lawyer (NFD) to ask for advice. Witness [redacted] heard the deputies say they were going to break the door down (*refer to* ***Witness*** [redacted] ***transcript, page 19***). Witness [redacted] believed the deputies did not have legal standing to enter; however, the door was eventually opened and the deputies detained everyone inside. Witness [redacted] was handcuffed, escorted out of the marijuana dispensary, and detained the backseat of a patrol vehicle. Witness [redacted] was shown a silver colored firearm recovered by Subject Paez and [redacted] however, he did not recognize that firearm. The silver colored firearm was not registered to anyone. Witness [redacted] knew there were three guns carried by the security guards at the location. Witness [redacted] believed the weapons were secured inside a drawer in the display room. Witness [redacted] interview was summarized by ICIB investigators, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 84 to 88]**.

Witness [redacted]

On January 28, and May 17, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted] On August 24, 2011, Witness [redacted] worked as a part-time security guard at "Superior Herbal Health" marijuana dispensary. Witness [redacted] was in the display room when Witness [redacted] made a purchase of marijuana which was placed inside a brown

paper bag. Witness [redacted] walked out of the marijuana dispensary with Witness [redacted] while carrying the brown paper bag. Witness [redacted] then returned to the display room and handed the brown paper bag to one of the employees (NFD). After Witness [redacted] went into the display room, Witness [redacted] saw the deputies enter the marijuana dispensary and detained everyone. Witness [redacted] was unable to identify the deputies. Witness [redacted] did not see Witness [redacted] go behind the counter or conceal any firearm by the trashcan (*refer to* ***Witness*** [redacted] ***ICIB transcript, page 23***).

After Witness [redacted] was detained, one of the deputies searched him and removed his wallet, money clip, keys, and cellular phone from his pockets. All of his property was placed on a couch in the lobby. Witness [redacted] was escorted by unknown deputies to a patrol vehicle and placed in the backseat for approximately eight hours. Numerous deputy personnel arrived later in the day and searched the marijuana dispensary. At the conclusion of the search, Witness [redacted] was released from the patrol vehicle. Witness [redacted] was the first person to enter the marijuana dispensary after he was released. Witness [redacted] retrieved his property and noticed his money clip, which contained approximately $900 dollars, missing. Witness [redacted] asked one of the deputies (NFD) about his money and he was told they (referring to LASD personnel) had video-taped the location prior to the search and they would get back with him. Witness [redacted] money clip was never located. Witness [redacted] was shown a picture of a silver colored firearm recovered by Subject Paez and [redacted]; however, he did not recognize that firearm. Witness [redacted] knew there were three other firearms inside the location and believed he might have kept his firearm in a drawer in the office. Witness [redacted] interview was summarized by Sergeant Matthews, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 36 to 38]**.

Witness [redacted]

On May 17, 2013, ICIB Sergeant Kelly Matthews interviewed Witness [redacted] On June 3, 2014, ICIB Sergeant Matthews conducted a telephone interview with Witness [redacted]

On August 24, 2011, Witness [redacted] worked as a sales associate at "Superior Herbal Health" marijuana dispensary. Witness [redacted] saw Witness [redacted] make a purchase and exit the location. Witness [redacted] then immediately came back into the marijuana dispensary. Witness [redacted] heard the deputies, later identified as Subject Paez and [redacted] knock on the door and demand entry. The deputies threatened they were going to "kick the door down!" (*refer to* ***Witness*** [redacted] ***transcript, page 2***). When Witness [redacted] went back inside the marijuana dispensary, he did not go behind the counter in the display room. Witness [redacted] did not see Witness [redacted] place a gun by the trash can. Subject Paez and [redacted] eventually made entry into the marijuana dispensary. Witness [redacted] was handcuffed and escorted to a patrol vehicle where he was detained along with other individuals at the marijuana dispensary. Witness [redacted] was eventually released and his personal property was released to him. Witness [redacted] was shown a picture of a silver colored firearm; however, he did not recognize it. Witness [redacted] did not have a permit to carry a firearm and did not own one; however, he knew there three other firearms owned by the security guards (Witnesses [redacted], [redacted] and

[redacted]) which were kept in either a cabinet or a safe inside the facility. Witness [redacted] interview was summarized by ICIB investigators, see **[EXHIBIT A, pages 76 to 79]**.

> **IAB Note:** Witness [redacted] told Sergeant Matthews he did not have a security guard permit or license that authorized him to carry a firearm (*refer to* ***Witness*** [redacted] ***transcript, page 17***). Witness [redacted] Criminal History showed he was convicted of a felony, see **[Miscellaneous Documents]**.

SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Subject Deputy Anthony Paez

On October 21, 2019, IAB Sergeants Luan Dang and Brian Godwin interviewed Subject Paez. Attorney Elizabeth Gibbons represented Subject Paez during the interview.

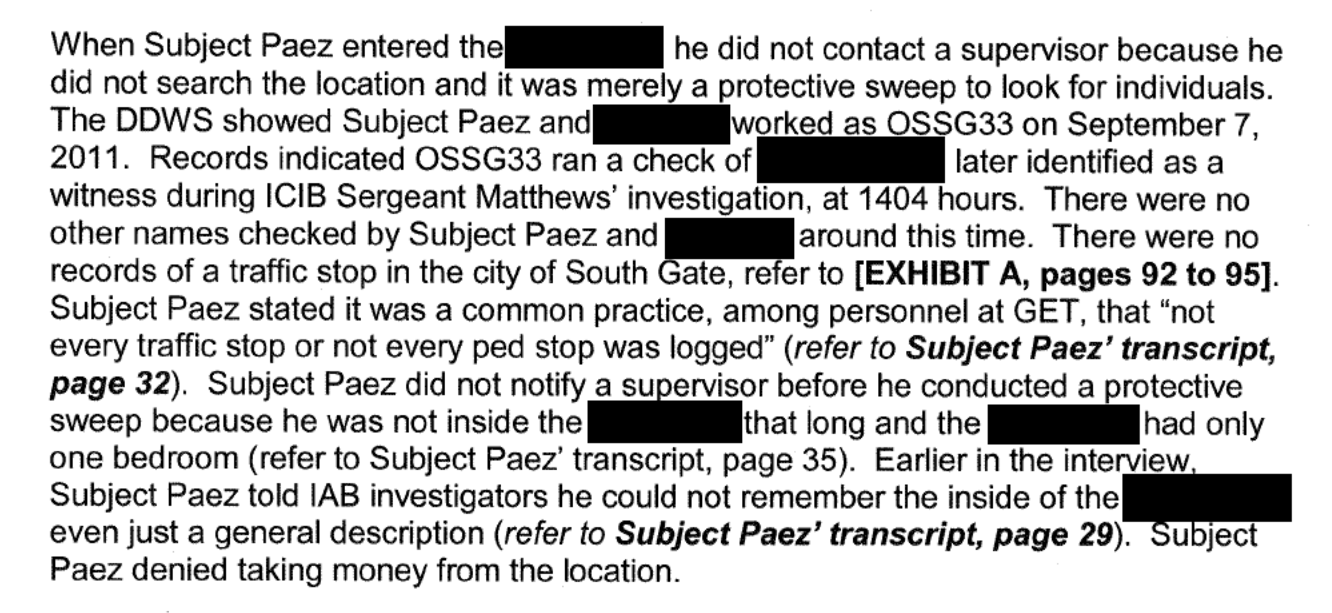
Subject Paez has been assigned to OSS as a GET deputy since 2010. Prior to his assignment at GET, Subject Paez was assigned to Palmdale Station as a patrol deputy. During his patrol assignment at Palmdale, Subject Paez was trained to log his contacts, such as traffic stops, for officer safety and to comply with Department policy (*refer to* ***Subject Paez' transcript, page 16***). Sometime after his arrival at GET, Subject Paez became [redacted] radio car partner.

Subject Paez remembered being called into Witness Saucedo's office to discuss a complaint. Subject Paez believed he was working with [redacted] in the city of South Gate when they saw a vehicle speeding (NFD). Subject Paez could not recall the incident, but somehow they (referring to Subject Paez and [redacted]) ended up in a parking lot behind an [redacted] Subject Paez and [redacted] somehow located the vehicle that was speeding; however, it was empty. Subject Paez saw some individuals coming out of an [redacted] and detained them in his patrol vehicle. After Subject Paez and [redacted] detained the individuals in their patrol vehicle, they conducted a "protective sweep" in two [redacted] Subject Paez explained he could only recall parts of the incident because it occurred more than eight years ago.

Subject Paez was unable to recall the following (*refer to* ***Subject Paez' transcript, pages 23 to 30***):

1. The description of the vehicle and the occupants.
2. How he located the vehicle.
3. How fast the vehicle was traveling.
4. If he lost sight of the vehicle.
5. How he located the vehicle he saw speeding.
6. How he believed the individuals he saw coming out of an [redacted] were the individuals from the vehicle he believed was speeding.
7. Why he detained the individuals in the backseat of his patrol vehicle for a speeding violation.

8. Why he conducted a "protective sweep" of the location looking for individuals when they already had the individuals detained in the backseat of their patrol vehicle.
9. How he obtained consent to enter the [redacted]
10. The general descriptions of the [redacted]


When Subject Paez entered the [redacted] he did not contact a supervisor because he did not search the location and it was merely a protective sweep to look for individuals. The DDWS showed Subject Paez and [redacted] worked as OSSG33 on September 7, 2011. Records indicated OSSG33 ran a check of [redacted] later identified as a witness during ICIB Sergeant Matthews' investigation, at 1404 hours. There were no other names checked by Subject Paez and [redacted] around this time. There were no records of a traffic stop in the city of South Gate, refer to **[EXHIBIT A, pages 92 to 95]**. Subject Paez stated it was a common practice, among personnel at GET, that "not every traffic stop or not every ped stop was logged" (*refer to **Subject Paez' transcript, page 32***). Subject Paez did not notify a supervisor before he conducted a protective sweep because he was not inside the [redacted] that long and the [redacted] had only one bedroom (refer to Subject Paez' transcript, page 35). Earlier in the interview, Subject Paez told IAB investigators he could not remember the inside of the [redacted] even just a general description (*refer to **Subject Paez' transcript, page 29***). Subject Paez denied taking money from the location.

After the criminal investigation was submitted to JSID, criminal charges were filed against Subject Paez. After criminal charges were filed against him, Subject Paez reviewed the arrest report under file #911-07712-0399-151. Subject Paez explained the event occurred more than eight years ago and he only remembered part of the incident. Subject Paez believed he saw what appeared to be a narcotics transaction between two male blacks in front of a house, which he later learned was a marijuana dispensary. Initially, Subject Paez could not recall what occurred after he attempted to contact the individuals. Later in the interview, Subject Paez remembered he entered the marijuana dispensary after [redacted] had obtained consent to enter. Subject Paez entered the marijuana dispensary and detained several individuals. Subject Paez believed they conducted a protective sweep but could not recall when that occurred. Subject Paez requested additional units and a supervisor; however, he could not recall when he called for them.

IAB investigators showed the surveillance footage from the marijuana dispensary to Subject Paez. Subject Paez informed IAB investigators the surveillance footage was provided to him by his defense attorney during his criminal court proceeding and he has viewed the surveillance footage. Prior to viewing the video, Subject Paez described he attempted to contact the males after he saw what he described as a narcotics transaction. The surveillance footage showed when Subject Paez stopped his patrol vehicle and exited the driver's side, Subject Paez walked directly to the west side of the building. Subject Paez explained his attempt to contact the individuals occurred when he exited the patrol vehicle. When one of the individuals went back into the marijuana dispensary, he went to the west side of the building to provide containment.

Surveillance footage showed Subject Paez went into the display room and went behind the counter for approximately 30 seconds. Subject Paez explained he went behind the counter during a protective sweep to recover firearms for safekeeping. Subject Paez was unable to recall which firearms he recovered during the protective sweep. Subject Paez was unable to recall how he obtained the information leading to the location of the firearm and did not believe he conducted a search.

Surveillance footage showed Subject Paez placed two firearms on the counter in the back office of the marijuana dispensary. After placing the firearms on the counter, Subject Paez crawled under the desk and the surveillance system became frozen. Subject Paez explained he must have recovered the firearms during the protective sweep. He placed the firearm on the counter and crawled underneath the desk to disable the surveillance system. For officer safety reasons, Subject Paez was concerned the surveillance system had the capability of providing live feeds to unknown individuals who could have viewed the activities inside the marijuana dispensary.

> **IAB Note:** IAB investigators reviewed the surveillance footage; however, IAB investigators were unable to identify which firearms were placed on the counter due to poor video footage.